Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I do not know that, Sir. I am only here to answer questions with which I am connected.

Sir, the main crux of the matter is, as I said in the opening speech, you should never put yourself under obligation to anybody. The people are looking at these things with great suspicion. I hope I have answered the main points raised in the discussion. I have brought the evils that come out of these tea parties to the prominent notice of this House and I do not think much purpose will be served by pressing this resolution. I, therefore, beg leave of the House to withdraw this resolution.

Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

3—Opening of a Maternity ward in the Chittur Hospital.

Mr. C. S. Viswanatha Ayyar.—*"This Council recommends to the Government to make immediate steps for the opening of a maternity ward attached to the Sirkar Hospital at Chittur and for placing that ward under the care of a Lady Surgeon."*

In moving this very important resolution seeking the help of the Government in redressing a longstanding grievance and long felt necessity of the inhabitants of Chittur, I would like to bring home to the Hon'ble Members that Chittur happens to be an island, as it were, detached from the rest of the State by a distance of more than 40 miles. With the growth of the place and the increase in the population along with the advancement of civilisation, the ailments of the people are also increasing. Especially in matters of maternity there has been an increasing demand for the aid of professional men and it is the fundamental duty of all civilised Governments to cater to this want of the public. I can speak with a certain amount of experience the very great hardships that the suffering members of the other sex are put to in times of one of the most anxious at the same time sacred period of their life. There is already a Government Hospital in Chittur and another at Nemmara but it is a pity that in neither of these hospitals facilities are provided for attending to maternity cases. In Nemmara at least there is now working under the Health Department a Maternity centre but in the Municipal Town of Chittur even that is lacking. So much so in cases of need those who can afford the luxury of medical attendance, qualified persons are brought from the British Indian Hospitals at Coimbatore or Palghat. But the

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poor among the suffering class place themselves entirely at the mercy of Native treatment. The nearest hospital where maternity cases are attended to is situated in Coimbatore at a distance of more than 30 miles. All other places in the State are being served by good hospitals with all facilities within reasonable distances. But the case of Chittur stands alone and unfriended. It is certainly late in the day to dilate much on the need for providing facilities to attend maternity cases, which alas are growing in number of late. I can almost anticipate the usual reply of the Government to this reasonable request of the public of Chittur. But I submit, Sir, that when the crying needs of suffering humanity demand a certain thing no trouble or inconvenience should be spared to find out funds and any other expenses can be suspended to meet this just demand. After all the cost involved would be insignificant compared to the good done to suffering humanity. The hospital is already there. A ward has to be constructed and some instruments to be supplied and these are not going to cost the Government enormously. When once the need for the providing of facilities for maternity cases is accepted, it is but reasonable to request the Government to put the ward under the care of a woman doctor. There are now one paid doctor, and two Honorary doctors working in the Chittur Hospital and we shall be satisfied if one of the doctors is replaced by a lady doctor. That request of ours will therefore not cost anything to the Government. As for space in the Hospital for the construction of a necessary ward I can assure the Government that that thing can be satisfactorily managed with the existing compound attached to the Hospital. The subject of the resolution being a matter of common knowledge and the importance being so very patent I do not want to further reinforce any arguments for opening of a maternity ward in the Chittur Hospital and rest contented with the hope that such a good and just cause in aiding the members of the other sex during the period of agency and anxiety will commend itself to the members of this Hon'ble House and the Government.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—Sir, the resolution speaks about two things, the necessity for a labour ward and the appointment of a lady doctor.

As regards accommodation for labour cases I may state before this House that recently a new ward is being put up which is nearing completion. This ward will be able to accommodate about 20 patients. Therefore, the need for acommodation will be more than amply met for the present as soon as

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this new ward is completed which I think will be over before a month or two. No doubt, it is not a very ideal state of affairs to have maternity cases extended to in the general wards though we have got a special small room which could be used for the same. As things are at present there is no place to put up an additional labour ward. Before we put an additional labour ward we shall have to acquire more lands. The proposal is before the Government. The Diwan Peishkar inspected the site personally along with me. The land acquisition charges come to about 3 to 4 thousand rupees. It is only after this land acquisition is over that we will be in a position to put up this additional ward. Due to the present budgetary position it was not possible to include this item. But towards the middle of the year when the Chief Engineer finishes the work that has already been taken up consideration will be given to this subject when land acquisition proceedings will be started and the necessary labour ward will be constructed.

As regards the lady doctor it has been brought to the notice of this House many times that no more additional hands should be appointed in the Department. As such during the last few years the attempt of the Department was to enlist lady doctors when male doctors retired. The last 5 or 6 vacancies in the Department were filled up by ladies alone. At present the number of ladies in the cadre of sub-assistant surgeons in the Department is too few so that the Department is not in a position to appoint one to this hospital. The earliest opportunity when anybody retires will be taken to enlist ladies in the Department and this also be will be attended to. Before that, I am afraid the Government may not be able to take this matter on hand.

Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

4. Release of harmless incapaciated long term prisoners.

Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar.—"*This Council recommends to the Government that such of the long term prisoners as are totally incapable to do any mischief and are beyond all reasonable hopes of recovery from the wasting diseases to which they have fallen a prey and have therefore ceased to be a danger to the public, may be released, if recommended to do so by a standing committee appointed for the purpose, consisting of among others, the District Magistrate, the Chief Medical Officer, the Superintendent of Central Jail and the honorary visitors of the jail, on such conditions as they may fix in each case*".

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